

the life of Juanita Varnado Pierce. She passed on February 7, 2021 at the age 83.

Juanita (affectionately called Neat) was born to the late Howard and Maggie Lee Varnado and grew up in McComb, Mississippi. Her early education was at Pike County High School in McComb. She graduated high school at 15 and attended Henderson Business College in Memphis, Tennessee. She graduated from Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University, in 1974 with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and from Auburn University with a Master's in Early Childhood Education in 1975.

She started teaching 2nd grade at Dean Road Elementary School in Auburn, Alabama, in August of 1975 and taught 2nd grade for 17 years. After completing her Administration Certification from the University of Alabama, she was hired as the Assistant Principal at Dean Road Elementary in the Fall of 1992 and became Principal in Fall of 1996. She retired in the Fall of 1998. As a retired educator, she volunteered throughout Tuskegee in the local school system reading to young children. To ensure all children had access to books, she founded the Bookmobile which was a remade bread truck she purchased and drove it throughout Macon County giving free books to children. Continuing in her passion of educating and reading, Juanita established the S.M.A.R.T. (Science, Math, Art, Reading and Technology) Camp in 2005. Funded by grants and donations, this free two-week camp was started at Washington Chapel A.M.E. Church with approximately 40 students and today is held at George Washington Carver Elementary School due to the large size of participants.

Juanita was a devoted member of Washington Chapel A.M.E. Church. After joining in 1960, she started teaching the pre-school Sunday School class and remained the teacher for nearly 50 years. She served in the Cathedral and Gospel Choirs, the Stewardess Board and Steward Board.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Booker T. Pierce, Sr.; her sisters Patricia Varnado and Artis Varnado; and a brother, Charles Varnado. Remaining to continue her legacy are her three children, Booker T. Pierce, Jr. (Nashville, TN); Vincent B. Pierce (St. Louis, MO) and Lisa (Bernard) P. Grant (Alexandria, VA); two grandchildren, Nicholas Bernard Grant (Newport News, VA) and Dominique Pierce (Pompano Beach, FL); her sister Lottie (Harrison) Varnado-Williams (Diamondhead, MS) and one brother Howard Varnado, Jr. (Milpitas, CA); two brothers-in-law, Fletcher (Sylvia) Pierce (McCormick, SC) and James Pierce (Montgomery, AL), two sisters-in-law, Cebell Miller (Griffin, GA) and Roxanne Pierce (Bessemer, AL); and a host of devoted cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Juanita's memory. She was a humble servant who gave willingly and unconditionally to everyone she encountered. She will be missed by her family, friends and the Tuskegee Community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY ELLA HARRIS

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2021*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation.

Whereas, the Almighty God has called to her eternal rest Mrs. Mary Ella Harris, a pioneer civic, community, social, religious and political activist in the North Lawndale Community of Chicago and its environs; and

Whereas, Mary Harris and her family were some of the very first blacks to move into and reside in what was then an all white community; and

Whereas, as the community changed and as Blacks poured in, many from the rural south, Mary's leadership shined like the bright light that she was; and

Whereas, Mary was not necessarily the loudest and most militant sounding person in the meetings she was always there and when she spoke, people listened and took action based upon what she said. For many years Carey Tercentenary AME Church was blessed to have four of its members known as leading activist and leaders in the Lawndale Community: Mrs. Nola Bright, Mrs. Jacqueline Ford, Mr. Theodis Leonard and Mrs. Mary Ella Harris.

Now, therefore be it Resolved that we cherish the life, work, contributions and legacy of Mrs. Mary Ella Harris and extend condolences to her family and friends, son, Reverend Walter Harris, daughters, Ms. Jeanetta Lee, Ms. Pamela Ella and son, James Leo Jr., grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives.

She served us well and now may she rest in peace.

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FOR THESPIAN TROUPE 3991 AT NEW JERSEY'S HIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2021*

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to send my sincere congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the members of Thespian Troupe 3991 at Hightstown High School for their incredible efforts in collecting 84 pounds of food for Rise Food Pantry as part of New Jersey Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat. The dedication that they have shown to this program—from re-creating a national initiative at the state level so they can continue fighting childhood hunger, to achieving such tremendous feats in their 2020 food drive—is a true testament to the character and focus of their members.

Whether this drive is their last, their first, one of many, or the only one that they will participate in, I hope that they can feel the impact that they have had on the community they live in, and that they remember that they are always capable of such impact. I applaud them on this achievement, and I look forward to all that they will accomplish in their futures.

Again, Congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUDENE MCCOY'S 92ND BIRTHDAY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2021*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize Mrs. Rudene McCoy. Mrs. McCoy turned 92 on December 21, 2020.

Rudene was born in Chambers County, the daughter of L. L. and Ruby Aaron. She was raised in Lanett and is a graduate of Lanett High School. Rudene earned her B.S. degree in nursing from the University of Georgia.

Rudene had a tremendous career as a registered nurse in the area of cardiology. She was mentored by renowned cardiologist, Dr. Robert Copeland, and served as his chief cardiac nurse for over 30 years. Based on her outstanding patient care, she was named Chambers County Nurse of the Year and received numerous accolades from the Georgia Heart Clinic.

In addition to her profession, Rudene was devout in her support of her family, church and the City of Lanett. She is a life-long member of the United Methodist Church of Lanett where she taught Sunday School, served on Administrative Board and was named Woman of the Year. Rudene also co-chaired the Centennial Committee that planned and prepared Lanett's 100-year celebration in 1995.

Rudene has been known as First Lady and First Mother of the City of Lanett. Her husband, Pete, was a longtime Councilman and Mayor for the City. Her son Kyle is the current Mayor of Lanett; her daughter Valerie is a registered nurse like Rudene; and her son Skip is the County Attorney for Chambers County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Rudene for her service to the people of Lanett and Chambers County and join me in wishing her a very happy 92nd birthday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DETECTIVE TYRONE P. JACKSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT (STAR NUMBER 21175)

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2021*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, law enforcement can be one of the toughest careers, one of the most rewarding jobs and one of the areas from which one can derive a very high level of satisfaction.

Such has been the experiences of Detective Tyrone Jackson who grew up in Chicago, went to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, returned home and joined the Chicago Police Department, and is now ready to enter a new phase of life.

During his 30-year tenure with the Chicago Police Department, Detective Jackson worked with several units, from Patrolman to Organized Crime, to the SAM Unit (Stop Alcohol to Minors), Prostitution, and FBI Operations in finding missing youth in Human Trafficking.